



## **Kentucky Department of Corrections**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Kirstie Willard to Lead Division of Local Facilities**

**FRANKFORT, Ky.** (April 29, 2016) – Kentucky Department of Corrections Commissioner Rodney Ballard today announced that Kirstie Willard will be detailed to the position of assistant director for the department's Division of Local Facilities.

"We're excited to have Ms. Willard in her new leadership role dealing with county jails across the Commonwealth," said Commissioner Ballard. "She understands the challenges facing jailers and fiscal courts and will work with them daily to make the jailers, fiscal courts and Kentucky Department of Corrections (DOC) successful."

Willard is a 14-year veteran of the DOC. In addition to holding several positions within the Division of Local Facilities, her experience includes managing the department's Victim Services Branch.

"I think it is a tremendous move," said Shelby County Jailer Bobby Waits, a former president of the Kentucky Jailers Association. "She is very knowledgeable concerning jail issues, and I certainly think she is excellent for this position."

Willard first joined the department as an intern with the Division of Local Facilities in May 1999. She held the position until August 2001 while completing a bachelor's degree in correctional and juvenile justice studies at Eastern Kentucky University. Upon graduation, she worked as a graduate assistant at the University of Louisville while working on a master's degree in justice administration.

In October 2004, Willard returned to the department as a victim advocate in the newly formed Office of Victim Services, where she acted as a liaison between crime victims and the department. In September 2005, she was promoted to head the office which included managing the statewide Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) program.

Willard transferred to the Division of Local Facilities as a jail services specialist in March 2007. In that role, she served as the jail inspector for 14 counties and also as liaison to all jails across the state on the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). Willard was promoted in February 2010 to corrections program administrator, where in addition to her role as a jail inspector and PREA liaison, she handled the administrative duties of the Kentucky State Corrections Commission. That included the community corrections grants program and serving as the clerical assistant for the Kentucky Jail Standards Commission.

In January 2014, Willard assumed supervisory duties of the Division of Local Facilities administrative staff, who are responsible for processing housing reimbursement, state inmate pay and catastrophic medical claims for the jails. Later that year, Willard was promoted to regional administrator for the Division of Local Facilities.

A 2014 graduate of the Commissioner's Executive Leadership Program, Willard is also a member of the American Jail Association and the Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinquency.

**Editor's note: photo attached**

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